



The regular meeting for the Grimes Park & Recreation Advisory Board (PB) was called to order on Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 5:30 PM at Grimes City Hall.

Roll Call: Jannae Lane (JL), Chairperson; Darla Eastman (DE), Vice Chairperson; James Abens (JA), Secretary; April Heitland (AH); Brett Barber (BB), Parks & Recreation Director; Eric Johansen (EJ), City Council Liaison; Mark Arentsen (MA), Interim City Administrator  
Absent: Dennis Heiman

## **I. GENERAL AGENDA ITEMS**

### **Approval of the Agenda**

Moved by JA, Second by AH, the agenda shall be approved.

Roll call: Ayes - All; Nays - 0. Absent – DE. Motion passed 3 to 0.

### **Approval of the Minutes**

Moved by AH, Second by JL, the Minutes from February 28, 2018 PB Meeting shall be approved.

Roll call: Ayes - All, Nays - 0. Absent – DE. Motion passed 3 to 0.

### **Public Forum**

None.

## **II. BOARD DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Kennybrook Park / Trails - FOX Engineer John Gade (JG) presented the PB with the plans for the trail extension for Hwy 44 and NW 107<sup>th</sup> Street. Two options for the trail were discussed for the Hwy 44 extension, included an option to make the trail straight with now curves, and an alternate option with curves that matches the existing trail from SE Lower Beaver to SE Gateway Dr. JA, AH, and JL all agreed the option with curves that match the existing trail would be preferred. No motion was needed. JG indicated the trail extensions should be completed this year.

Also discussed was the bid approved by the Grimes City Council for construction of the Kennybrook South Park. The bid of \$167k was accepted, and was approximately \$25k

less than the estimated cost by Fox Engineering. According to EJ, the city council would like the PB to consider the various options for additions to the park and determine how to spend the \$25k. JG provided some alternatives to consider, including \$25k for a volleyball court (if built by the GC), \$15k for a volleyball court (if built by the Grimes public works department), \$15k to move the drinking fountain closer to the park amenities, \$5k for a backstop in the open green space, landscaping, additional/different playground equipment, or any combination of the above. These options generated much discussion, but ultimately the discussion was tabled until playground equipment estimates/options could be obtained from the various vendors who had provided bids previously. BB will reach out to the vendors for other options and catalogs to assist the PB with the decision.

2. Community Fishing Program – Tyler Stubbs (TS), Iowa DNR presented the PB with an overview of the DNR's Community Fishing Program. TS indicated the city of Grimes has seen a recent increase of 27% in fishing licenses, yet Grimes is the only city in the entire Des Moines metro without a fishery. A fishery is a body of water that provides adequate size and depth to sustain a healthy fish population that isn't subject to kill-offs due to lack of oxygen from ice in the winter and/or excess vegetation in the summer. The DNR wants to partner with communities to create fisheries according to their specifications, especially in growing communities like Grimes with new developments. Tyler indicated bodies of water that don't meet the current DNR specifications for a fishery would still be eligible for stocking by the DNR if the depth is sufficient and the city understands the risks involved. According to JG & BB, the only wet retention ponds owned by the city (or soon to be owned by the city) are the Beaverbrook J pond and the Heritage ponds. JA will work with TS to research ordinances in other cities across the metro to see if any would make sense for Grimes to adopt that would require developers to construct fisheries in new developments.
3. Review Kennybrook South Park Playground Bids – See item #1.
4. Update on Service Project list – DE provided an update on the information provided on the City of Grimes website, including trail adoption and park adoption options. Discussion among the PB included ideas to have more pictures and publicity of PB events, adding a feedback area for residents, adding a creek adoption option, and creating a link to a "living" document of volunteer options. An additional idea was discussed to host an annual "City Beautification Day" prior to the DCG HS graduation and Governor's Days that would help clean up the city's parks and build community pride.
5. Public Art Discussion – BB updated the group on the Bravo sponsored public art meeting. A member of the Grimes Library Board attended and felt there was a lot of good information shared. The PB members agreed that it would support residents forming their own committee or non-profit organization to promote public art in Grimes.

6. Discuss Interest in Hosting a Sports Equipment Swap Event – JL presented feedback on the PB facebook page regarding an idea for a sport equipment swap event. The PB agreed that there are existing opportunities for exchanging and/or selling sports equipment, including, but not limited to, Facebook swap sites and garage sale events. The PB encourages residents to utilize those existing options.
7. Parks and Rec Director Comments – summer rec update, community garden – BB provided updates on rec program participation numbers.
8. Tree Board Update – Arbor Day Event on April 28, Memorial Tree/Bench Program – BB indicated there is a need for volunteers for the tree planting event at the North Sports Complex on Arbor Day. He also updated the group on a request by Project 52, which provides commemorable trees/benches. BB indicated the preference is to allow benches.
9. Council Update – EJ provided feedback that additional signage will be added to the handicapped swing at the Grimes Community Complex. The swing is intended to be used only by those who have conditions that won't allow them to use a standard swing, and incorrect and excessive usage increases the risk of breakage.

EJ also expressed thanks to MA for serving as the interim City Administrator. A new full-time City Administrator was selected by the City Council. MA provided parting advice to the PB to spend resources on a Parks & Trails Master Plan, as he's seen great benefits of doing so in other city's he has worked for.

### **III. BOARD ACTION**

JA presented the board with an inquiry from the DCG Baseball Club on the appropriate field usage rental fee for the spring Frosh baseball league games. Freshman traditionally play a spring league through Sportsplex West, and the DC-G Baseball Club offers to host games either at the old DC high school field or at the GSC field 6. There are two freshman teams this season. Each player signs up for the league via the DCG Baseball Club, and only games involving DCG teams are played at DC or GSC. The DCG Baseball Club maintains the fields for the games, which involves hiring staff and chalking the fields. They estimate a cost of \$10/hour. According to Tyson Krause (TK), equipment manager for the DCG Baseball Club, Sportsplex West pays \$45 per hour for field rental. However, he wasn't completely confident the amount paid.

After various discussion among all in attendance, the following motion was passed:

Moved by JA, Second by DE, to nominate Brett to determine the appropriate rate to charge, based on the standard amount Sportsplex pays for field rental, within the range

of a minimum of \$30 and a maximum of \$60, to be paid to the city by the DCG Baseball Club, minus \$10 reimbursement to the DCG Baseball Club for expenses incurred.  
Roll call: Ayes - All, Nays - 0. Motion passed 4 to 0.

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business.

#### **V. NEW BUSINESS**

Next Meeting on Wednesday, April 25, 2018 at Grimes City Hall.

#### **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by DE, Second by AH to adjourn the meeting.

Roll call: Ayes – All; Nays – 0; Motion passed 4 to 0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM

DRAFT